



**City of Rowlett**  
**Official Copy**

4000 Main Street  
Rowlett, TX 75088  
www.rowlett.com

**Ordinance: ORD-018-13**

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ROWLETT, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING ARTICLE VIII ("IMPOUNDMENT") OF CHAPTER 6 ("ANIMALS") TO AMEND SECTION 6-275 AND SECTION 6-283 TO REQUIRE THAT ALL DOGS, CATS, AND FERRETS BE IMPLANTED WITH A MICROCHIP FOR THE PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO REDEMPTION OR ADOPTION; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500) FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Rowlett, Texas, hereby finds and determines that of the 1,500 to 2,000 animals impounded by the City's animal shelter annually, less than 10 percent have any type of identification, leaving animal control officials with little to no means of locating and notifying the owners of the pet; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 35 percent of animals impounded by animal shelters nationally are reclaimed by owners, whereas the remaining 65 percent are disposed of by adoption or euthanasia, and that each year, more than 3 million dogs and cats that enter animal shelters are euthanized; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of microchip technology to identify animals is inexpensive, virtually painless and very effective to identify and locate the owner of an impounded pet, and is an effective means of reuniting pets with owners; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring certain pets to be implanted with a microchip prior to adoption or release to owners is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROWLETT, TEXAS:**

**Section 1:** That the Code of Ordinances for the City of Rowlett, Texas, be and is hereby amended by amending Section 6-275 of Article VIII, "Impoundment," of Chapter 6, "Animals," by adding a new subpart (5), without amendment, repeal or change to any other subpart or provision of Section 6-275, such that subpart (5) of Section 6-275 shall read in its entirety as follows:

**"CHAPTER 6. ANIMALS**

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## ARTICLE VIII. IMPOUNDMENT

### Sec. 6-275. - Redemption.

- (5) Prior to the release of an impounded dog, cat or ferret to the owner, the animal shall be implanted with a microchip, at the owner's expense. Information identifying the owner shall be entered into an appropriate database to enable microchip identification. Such information shall not include the social security number or the driver's license number of the owner. Information that identifies or tends to identify the owner or an address, telephone number, or other personally identifying information of the owner of a dog or cat is confidential and shall not be disclosed except to City animal control personnel for purposes directly related to the protection of public health and safety."

**Section 2:** That the Code of Ordinances for the City of Rowlett, Texas, be and is hereby amended by amending Section 6-283 of Article VIII, "Impoundment," of Chapter 6, "Animals," by adding a new subpart (7), without amendment, repeal or change to any other subpart or provision of Section 6-283, such that subpart (7) of Section 6-283 shall read in its entirety as follows:

## "CHAPTER 6. ANIMALS

## ARTICLE VIII. IMPOUNDMENT

### Sec. 6-283. Adoption of animals.

- (7) The animal, if a dog, cat or ferret, must be implanted with a microchip and information identifying the owner shall be entered into an appropriate database to enable microchip identification. Such information shall not include the social security number or the driver's license number of the owner of the animal. Information that identifies or tends to identify the owner or an address, telephone number, or other personally identifying
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information of the owner of a dog or cat is confidential and shall not be disclosed except to City animal control personnel for purposes directly related to the protection of public health and safety."

**Section 3:** That all ordinances of the City of Rowlett, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed and all other ordinances of the City of Rowlett not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4:** That should any sentence, paragraph, subdivision, clause, phrase or section of this ordinance be adjudged or held to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any part or provision hereof other than the part so decided to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, and shall not affect the validity of the Code of Ordinances as a whole.

**Section 5:** That any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this ordinance shall be subject to the same penalty as provided for in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rowlett, as heretofore amended, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense.

**Section 6:** That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and the publication of the caption, as the law and Charter in such cases provide.

At a meeting of the City Council on July 2, 2013 this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Ayes: 5** Mayor Pro Tem Kilgore, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Councilmember Dana-Bashian, Councilmember Pankratz and Councilmember Bobbitt

**Absent: 2** Mayor Gottel and Councilmember Phillips

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Approved by

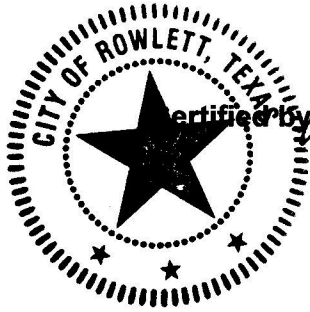
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem

Date July 2, 2013


Approved to form by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

Date July 2, 2013



certified by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary

Date July 2, 2013